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FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 1954

Lee Brady came in this morning. He has innumerable French contacts, and reports there are widespread allegations in France that Mendès' immediate entourage contains several Communists. It is also generally accepted that official communications to the Prime Minister probably, and without his knowledge, are repeated, if of sufficient importance and pertinency, to the Kremlin.

I lunched alone with Margaret Biddle. She is [redacted] disturbed over the same subject I discussed with Brady, her information having come from sources within the French Government. She is leaving for New York tomorrow and sill spend a month at home in connection with her work for Réalités and the Ladies' Home Journal. I am devoted to her -- she is dynamic, keen, and a [redacted] thoughtful and affectionate friend.

Harry Labouisse is in town for a few days and I had an interesting talk with him. He finds his UN task of caring for the Arab refugees fascinating and baffling. With headquarters in Beirut, he must rely for the most part on unreliable and often dishonest natives.

A dozen American correspondents had asked to see me this afternoon in the evident hope I would divulge the "news behind the news" on the Eden and Dulles swings around Europe. I disillusioned them quickly by the simple truth that I had no special knowledge of what had taken place. We then had a free interchange on the dilemma posed for Mendès -- the Parliament having rejected the EDC, what will it do when faced with the issue of constituting a camouflaged German national army?

In spite of the fact that, theoretically, my duties should now be those of a liquidator, I have been too busy for the past three days to set foot to pavement. My most strenuous exercise has been lifting glasses and knives, forks and spoons.

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Sara and Alan Scaife, Joaquin and Maria Rosa Cervera came to champagne tea. It was wonderful to see them.

For dinner tonight, we had Aissa and André Visson, Isabel and Trafford Klotz, Susie and Arthur Gardner, Mardi and John Hughes, John Utter and Odile de Guiche. I thought the Chateau Gazin 1928 was especially good. We talked a lot. Visson is deeply distrustful of Mendès, and suspects his soft tendencies on dealings with the Russians.

Got to bed at 2:30.

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